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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 EB-08 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ABF-01
IO-13 /091 W
----------115635 281536Z /53
R 281436Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3831
INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 12512

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SHUM, APER, MX
SUBJECT: ORGANIZING FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

REF: (A) STATE 148782, (B) MEXICO 11001

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY APPPECIATES BACKGROUND ON USG OBJECTIVES IN MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY AND OFFERS FOLLOWING COMMENTS AS REQUESTED REFTEL A. AS REGARDS MEXICO, NOTWITHSTANDING DIFFERING NATIONAL INTERESTS, ADVENT OF LOPEZ PORTILLO ADMINISTRATION HAS ENHANCED OP ORTUNITY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE AND, WE HOPE, GREATER COOPERATION ON BROADER RANGE OF MULTILATERAL ISSUES. AS INDICATED REFTEL B, BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES AND HIGH-LEVEL FOREIGN SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS REPRESENTED CONSTRUCTIVE START TOWARD ACHIEVING THIS OBJECTIVE, AND AUGUST VISIT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG WILL BE VERY HELPFUL IN CONSOLIDATING AND FURTHER ADVANCING PRODUCTIVE INTERCHANGE WITH GOM ON SIGNIFICANT MULTI-
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LATERAL ISSUES. END SUMMARY.
2. COMMENTS KEYED TO SUBJECTS LISTED IN PARA 3 REFTEL A.

3. NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. EMBASSY SHARES DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT RE GROWING IPMORTANCE OF ECONOMIC ISSUES AND WILL BE AWAITING ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE CONCERNING RATIONALE AND SUBSTANCE OF EVOLVING U.S. POSITIONS.

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BESIDES SUBSTANCE OF U.S. PROPOSALS, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL
IF WE COULD BE PROVIDED INFORMATION TO GIVE US BETTER
UNDERSTANDING OF LDC OR G-77 RATIONALE FOR OPPOSING MANY
OF OUR PROPOSALS. WE CAN BETTER INITIATE CONSTRUCTIVE
DIALOGUE AND ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE GOM IF WE HAVE CLEARER
UNDERSTANDING OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' PERCEPTIONS OF
THE MAJOR ISSUES. SINCE DEMISE OF CIEC, IT IS POSSIBLE
THAT UNCTAD MAY ONCE AGAIN BE A PRIMARY FOCUS FOR NORTH-
SOUTH DIALOGUE. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE RECEIVING
MORE BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS OF UNCTAD'S WORK AND HOW WE
ASSESS IT AS INSTRUMENT IN DIALOGUE.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS. DESPITE SOME INITIAL CONFUSION AND SUS-
PICION RE USG'S HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES, DISCUSSIONS HERE,
TOGETHER WITH MEXICAN ATTITUDE REFLECTED AT OAS MEETING IN
GRENADA, SUGGEST THAT WE CAN ANTICIPATE GREATER MEXICAN
UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT. WHILE NEW U.S. POLICY ON
SOUTHERN AFRICA HAS BEEN IMPORTANT POLITICAL FACTOR CON-
TRIBUTING TO MEXICAN PERCEPTION OF U.S. SERIOUSNESS,
SECRETARY VANCE'S ATLANTA SPEECH (WIDELY DISTRIBUTED TO
SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS) AND SUBSEQUENT STATEMENTS THAT USG
WILL PURSUE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY VIGOROUSLY AND WITH TACT
AND SENSITIVITY HAVE ALSO HELPED STRENGTHEN OUR CREDI-
BILITY AND WILL SERVE TO ENLIST GREATER MEXICAN SUPPORT
FOR OUR OBJECTIVES. (COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT ON GOM
ATTITUDE TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IS BEING DRAFTED IN
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RESPONSE STATE 140241 AND 161685, AND WILL BE PROVIDED
IN SEPTEL.)

5. UN BUDGET CONTROL. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT
INFORMATION CONCERNING GOM ATTITUDES TOWARD THIS QUESTION,
EMBASSY SENSED DURING MAYNES' BILATERAL TALKS JUNE 27
THAT GOM AT A MINIMUM UNDERSTANDS U.S. DOMESTIC PRESSURES
AND CONCERNS RE NEED FOR MORE RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF
UN BUDGET. IN THIS CONTEXT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO HAVE
A BETTER FEEL FOR SOME OF THE SPECIFIC RUNAWAY ASPECTS OF
THE BUDGET THAT ARE OF CONCERN TO US. FOR EXAMPLE, WE
WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING MORE DATA ANALYZING ADMIN COSTS
VS. PROGRAM OUTPUT FOR VARIOUS UN OPERATIONS IN LATIN
AMERICA. MERELY PRESENTING OUR POSITION IS NOT ENOUGH;
WE NEED MORE HARD DATA TO SHOW HOW BUDGET WASTE HURTS HOST
COUNTRIES AS MUCH OR MORE THAN IT DOES THE U.S.

6. UN STRUCTURAL ISSUES. ALTHOUGH GOM CLEARLY SHARES
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' DESIRE TO INCREASE THEIR INFLUENCE
IN UN SYSTEM, COMMENTS OF FONSEC OFFICIALS DURING MAYNES'
BILATERAL TALKS SEEM TO INDICATE GREATER GOM UNDERSTAND-
ING OF AND SYMPATHY TOWARD NEED FOR UN MANAGERIAL REFORMS

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THAN WE HERETOFORE THOUGHT. POSSIBILITY OF WORKING THROUGH
UN STEERING COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP MORE STRUCTURED AGENDA
FOR ADDRESSING NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES IN UN FRAMEWORK WAS
DISCUSSED, AND WE ASSUME THAT USG OFFICIALS WILL EXPLORE
THIS QUESTION FURTHER WITH APPROPRIATE GOM OFFICIALS
PRIOR TO AND DURING UNGA THIS FALL.
7. POLITICIZATION OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. WHILE GOM
IS WELL AWARE OF USG CONCERNS IN THIS AREA AND MAY BE
INCLINED TO EXAMINE POSSIBILITIES FOR COMPROMISE, MEXICO
HAS TAKEN GENERAL POSITION THAT REMOVAL OF POLITICAL
ISSUES FROM SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, AS ADVOCATED BY USG, IS
NOT REALISTIC OR POSSIBLE. FOR EXAMPLE, MEXICAN OFFICIALS
HERE CLAIM THAT WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH
GROUP OF 77 THE MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVES TRIED TO PROMOTE
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COMPROMISE FORMULA ON ARTICLE 17 AT RECENT ILO MEETING IN

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 EB-08 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00
ABF-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 /091 W
----------115804 281535Z /53
R 281436Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3832
INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO BY POUCH

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GENEVA. BASED ON REPORTS RECEIVED BEFORE AND DURING ILO
MEETING, THIS DOES NOT SEEM TO BE U.S. UNDERSTANDING OF
MEXICAN ROLE; BUT EMBASSY LACKS IN-DEPTH REPORTING ABOUT

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COMPLICATED MANEUVERING AT ILO MEETING TO EVALUATE GOM CLAIM.

8. WITH REGARD TO DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION AND BACK-STOPPING ON MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY, WE APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S RECOGNITION THAT EMBASSY'S EFFECTIVENESS IN MAKING REPRESENTATIONS AND HOLDING MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH GOM OFFICIALS DEPENDS ON ADEQUATE LEAD TIME, SUFFICIENT INFORMATION, AND CLEAR EXPLANATIONS OF SUBSTANCE OF USG POSITIONS. WHILE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THIS AREA, THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.

9. FROM THE EMBASSY'S PERSPECTIVE, MORE ANALYTICAL ASSESSMENTS OF WHAT TRANSPIRED AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND MEXICO'S ROLE IN THEM WOULD ENHANCE OUR ABILITY TO BUILD AND SUSTAIN TH:PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH FONSEC OFFICIALS
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HERE. FREQUENTLY OUR MEXICAN CONTACTS EITHER ATTEND THESE MEETINGS PERSONALLY OR ARE INFORMED IN GREATER DEPTH THAN WE CONCERNING WHAT HAPPENED AND WHY. WE ARE OFTEN LEFT IN THE DARK CONCERNING THE OUTCOME OF ISSUES ON WHICH WE HAVE MADE REPRESENTATIONS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, AND DO NOT EVEN KNOW HOW MEXICO VOTED.

10. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IF USUN AND OTHERS WOULD SEEK WAYS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION WITH THE FIELD. OFTEN CABLES ARE SO DETAILLED AND TECHNICAL THAT ONLY EXPERTS CAN UNDERSTAND THE ISSUE. MORE NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARIES OR PERIODIC REPORTS WHICH IDENTIFY AND CLEARLY ANALYZE ALL SIDES OF THE MAJOR ISSUES WILL BE VERY WELCOME.

11. WITHIN THE LIMITS OF INFORMATION AND RESOURCES AT OUR DISPOSAL, THIS EMBASSY AS WELL AS OTHERS CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT, ALBEIT SECONDARY, ROLE IN INFLUENCING HOST GOVERNMENTS AND BUILDING SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITIONS. AS THE MAYNES VISIT DEMONSTRATED, HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO CONTINUE TO EXPAND HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN USG AND GOM OFFICIALS WHO ARE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR FORMULATING POLICY TOWARD MAJOR MULTILATERAL ISSUES. TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE WE URGE DIRECT CONTACT AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS WITH GOM DELEGATIONS. AT THOSE WHERE MEXICAN ROLE IS IMPORTANT, CHIEF OF USDEL SHOULD MAKE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH HIS MEXICAN COUNTERPART.

12. THE NEW LOPEZ PORTILLO ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES GREATER PRIORITY TO IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND HAS TONED DOWN THE EXTREME CONFRONTATIONAL RHETORIC OF THE ECHEVERRIA PERIOD. WHILE IT CONTINUES TO IDENTIFY ITSELF WITH MANY OF THE GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE THIRD

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MORE PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE. INDEED, STATE-
MENTS BY FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL AND OTHER GOM OFFICIALS
SUGGEST THAT MEXICO WISHES TO SERVE AS A "BRIDGE" BETWEEN
DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES INSTEAD OF SEEKING
THIRD WORLD LEADERSHIP AS IT PREVIOUSLY DID. IN THIS
CAPACITY, AND DEPENDING ON HOW OUR RESPECTIVE POLICIES
EVOLVE, THE GOM MAY BE MORE DISPOSED TO COOPERATE WITH THE
U.S. IN IDENTIFYING AREAS FOR COMPROMISE AND MORE PRODUC-
TIVE COOPERATION. TO EXPLOIT THIS OPPORTUNITY WILL RE-
QUIRE NOT ONLY SENSITIVITY TOWARD MEXICO'S IMPORTANT AND
SOMEWHAT SPECIAL POSITION IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD, BUT
ALSO A RECOGNITION THAT U.S. BILATERAL POLICIES TOWARDS
MEXICO IN SENSITIVE AREAS SUCH AS TRADE OR ILLEGAL MIGRA-
TION COULD AFFECT OUR SUCCESS WITH MEXICO IN FURTHERING
U.S. OBJECTIVES IN MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

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